

Connections

August 2010

Massive Concrete Bridge Girders Are a Missouri First

Innovative Highway Design Saves Time, Money

by Jennifer Benefield

The single-longest, precast, concrete bridge girders in Missouri state history were installed July 1 on MoDOT's kcI-CON design-build project. The 150-foot girders are part of a new land bridge that will span northbound Interstate 29/35 and carry southbound Interstate 29/35 traffic headed for The Paseo, Independence Avenue, and points beyond.

By implementing state-of-the-art best practices from around the country, MoDOT is incorporating a Nebraska Department of Transportation innovative design to flyover all three new northbound interstate lanes with a single span, saving both time and money.

"Imagine a single, I-shaped, piece of concrete that stretches from a football field's end zone to the 50-yard line," said kcI-CON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "Moving just one of these 150,000-pound girders is like lifting the equivalent weight of 70 classic Volkswagen Beetles."

The three massive concrete girders were manufactured by Coreslab Structures in Omaha, Ne. The superloads were escorted from the state line to the project site by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The Paseo Boulevard bridge will be completed this fall enabling motorists to once again access The Paseo from southbound I-29/35.

The \$245 million kcI-CON project will reconstruct/rehabilitate 4.7 miles of I-29/35 from just north of Route 210/Armour Road in North Kansas City into the northeast corner of the downtown Kansas City, Mo., freeway loop. The project includes improving outdated interchanges and the construction of the Christopher S. Bond Bridge – a new landmark, cable-stayed Missouri River bridge.

To learn more, visit the project website at www.kcicon.com or find them on Facebook by searching "kcI-CON Project."



The single-longest, precast, concrete bridge girders in Missouri state history make their way to the kcI-CON design-build project July 1. The 150-foot girders are part of the new Paseo Boulevard bridge in Kansas City, Mo.

Highway Hero



Cathy Morrison

District 8 Maintenance Crew Leader Kris Sandgren completed his 2,600-mile bicycle trip across nine states July 20 to honor MoDOT's fallen workers, ending his trip in Jefferson City. Look for more stories and information from the ride on MoDOT's blog at www.modotblog.blogspot.com. Welcome back Kris!

Truck-Involved Fatal Crashes Down by Nearly Half

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Great news for everyone who shares the road with commercial motor vehicles... which is, really, everyone!

Mark Biesemeyer of Motor Carrier Services drives a Tracker measure that reports on the number of crashes that involve at least one commercial truck and result in death or injury. He had some incredible news to share in the latest Tracker edition.

Since 2005, the number of fatal crashes involving a commercial motor vehicle is down by almost half and the number of fatalities resulting from those crashes fell 52 percent. Five years ago, 205 people died as a result of 173 crashes that involved at least one large truck. In 2009, 99 people

died in 88 CMV-involved crashes – 106 fewer deaths.

The number of CMV-involved disabling injury crashes fell 31 percent during the same period. In 2009, 228 fewer people were injured in these types of crashes than in 2005.

Several factors contributed to the reduction. Because of the economy, both passenger cars and commercial trucks are traveling slightly less. Also, due to economics, trucking companies have kept only their safest drivers on the payroll. Safety is increasingly emphasized among motor carriers and law enforcement organizations– including MoDOT Motor Car-

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Visitors Will be Growing Great Memories at the Missouri State Fair

by Melissa Black

“Growing Great Memories” is the theme for this year’s Missouri State Fair Aug. 12-22. There are few places where you can make family memories by watching pig races, petting goats, checking out a circus and hearing your favorite music group sing all in the same day – but you can at the fair. MoDOT is gearing up for the fair with all the usual attractions in our ever-popular, lush and shady Highway Gardens and exhibit hall, as well as some new surprises.

“Our continued presence at the Missouri State Fair is a great way for us to connect face-to-face with thousands of the fair visitors,” says Don Hillis, System Management director. “Plus it’s a good opportunity to educate folks on all the

great things our department does for Missouri drivers.”

The annual No MOre Trash! Day will be held Aug. 13 with special activities including appearances by Buttons the Clown, trash can painting, games, snacks and a puppet show. MoDOT will stress the importance of litter prevention and keeping Missouri’s roadways clean of trash and debris. Adopt-A-Highway and Sponsor-A-Highway tables will be set-up for those interested in helping preserve the tranquility of nature along local highways.

The Transportation Exposition Center will be fully loaded with interactive displays on the department’s programs and activities featuring games, contests and giveaways. Kids can participate in

a transportation scavenger hunt, and play driving-related computer games. New displays will stress the importance of not texting and driving, a bridge display will feature pieces from an actual bridge, and a couple of brand new surprises that fairgoers won’t want to miss.

Other fair highlights include the traditional fried fair food, a free dog show, comedians, a magic show, a farmers market, a rodeo, rides on the midway, and concerts by entertainers like Sheryl Crow, Montgomery Gentry, the Eli Young Band, Darius Rucker, and much more. Admission to the State Fair varies by day and time. Normal daily admission is \$8. Visit www.mostatefair.com to find out more.



New Products Save Signs, Money

by Sally Oxenhandler

Splat!

The sight and sound of a paintball hitting a highway sign may make teens’ adrenaline flow, but it makes our blood boil. Defacing signs costs taxpayers, takes money away from highway projects and is unsafe for motorists. So with some help from the Organizational Results folks who test new products and the Construction and Materials Lab, we’re fighting back.

Rather than replace defaced signs, we’re now cleaning them when we can. The department is the first state in the nation to test various types of paint remover and put them to use on highway signs. Cleaning a sign rather than replacing it saves as much as \$1,000 depending on the sign’s size.



Organizational Results staff spent several months testing various types of paint remover to see how they work on highway signs. While there are many paint removal products on the market, many of them will render a highway sign “dead,” meaning they strip away

the materials that make the sign reflective at night. The goal was to find one that wouldn’t damage the sign’s reflectivity or leave a shadow where the spray paint or paintball mess was.

“We were delighted to find products already on the market that would clean the signs without hindering their visibility and readability,” said Jen Harper, organizational performance engineer.

To test the paint removers, OR employees plastered all types and colors of highway signs with spray paint and paintballs, and then allowed the paint to dry under simulated weather conditions such as extreme heat and cold. The paint was then removed with the trial chemicals, and the sign was tested in the laboratory under conditions that replicated night-time driving.

MoDOT crews recently put the products to work on several signs near LaMonte with positive results. We plan to share our findings with other states.

Find a video featuring Senior Chemist Sam Marshall that shows you how the paint removal products work on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/modotvideo.

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Central Office on the Move

by Kristi Jamison

Very soon you will find many familiar faces in different locations.

As you know, MoDOT is tightening its belt in many areas to bring about savings that will help us focus more resources on road and bridge improvements during tough times. One way we are saving money is by consolidating workspace so we can eliminate some offices and buildings and the costs associated with them.

For that cause, the old distribution center at 830 MoDOT has been getting a major facelift over the past year. It’s being remodeled into office space. The work has moved along very quickly and is scheduled to be done by Aug. 9.

Moves will begin the first of September and run through the end of December for the following groups: Equal Opportunity and Diversity, Multimodal, CADD, Organizational Results. In addition, General Services’ Administration, Fleet and Facilities sections will join Procurement and Travel Services, who are already at 830 MoDOT, but will be relocated within the building.

There will also be changes in other locations. Human Resources will consolidate all their operations to 601 W. Main near the training center. Systems Management Administration, Maintenance, Bridge Maintenance, Traffic and Highway Safety will move into the Creek Trail facility.

“The remodel is finishing up on time and we expect the moves of these work groups to go smoothly, too,” said General Service Director Beth Ring. “We appreciate your patience during this time of transition.”

These moves will eliminate the lease of the St. Mary’s East location around the end of the year. Stay tuned to future airings of the Inside Minute for more specific details as each move occurs.

Truck-Involved Crashes Decreased

continued from page 1

rier Services Safety and Compliance team who educate and enforce state and federal law.

But the most significant factor was found through analysis by Darla Stumpe of Traffic. It turns out that the best way to prevent injury and fatal CMV crashes is to keep vehicles in the lanes and on the roads!

Stumpe analyzed the CMV crash numbers, looking at lane departures. Cross-median CMV fatal crashes fell from 20 in 2005 to 3 in 2009 – that’s 85 percent. Lane departure fatal crashes fell from 136 to 62 – 54.4 percent. Analyzing further, Stumpe found that on major routes, fatal CMV crashes with lane departures fell from 96 to 30 – a whopping 66 percent. Thank you, rumble stripes! Thank you, guard cable!

New DWI Laws Sobering for Drunk Drivers

by Revee White

New Missouri DWI legislation will crack down on drunk drivers and make Missouri roads safer. The timely coordination of the new law and an impaired driving campaign will urge drivers to think about the consequences of impaired driving this August and in the months ahead.

This year's You Drink & Drive. You Lose campaign will take place Aug. 20 through Sept. 6. Law enforcement will participate in statewide sobriety checkpoints and DWI saturation patrols enforcing Missouri's DWI laws and keeping impaired drivers off the road. At the same time, advertising messages will remind drivers of the consequences of impaired driving.

The new DWI law which goes into effect August 28 will:

- Increase jail time for repeat DWI offenders and those with higher blood alcohol levels
- Move more cases from municipal courts to state courts, where penalties can be tougher

- Mandate better record-keeping for DWI cases so that repeat offenders can be properly tracked; and
- Offer offenders opportunities to participate in a DWI court program that incorporates treatment and close monitoring instead of going to jail.



Shaun Schmitz

Now more than ever in Missouri, You Drink and Drive. You Lose. To learn more about impaired driving and how you can Arrive Alive, visit www.savemolives.com.



New Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Approved

by Sue Cox

Though a dark rain cloud hovers over Missouri's transportation funding, the state's new five-year highway construction program was approved by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission in early July. Only one-third the size of the 2009 program, it barely has enough funds to take care of the existing system. This means Missourians will see very few new projects during the next few years that expand the system and make it safer.

Each year, MoDOT identifies the specific transportation projects planned in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, or STIP. This provides a consistent and constant road map for Missourians to see how their transportation money is spent. This time, the program is quite lean.

"We've known this grim situation was coming," said Kevin Keith, MoDOT's interim director. "It's as if we've fallen off a cliff."

The stagnant state revenues, uncertain federal funding and no more money from the Amendment 3 voter-required bonds, are causing Missouri's highway and bridge construction to dramatically decrease. The result is a program containing construction projects averaging only \$500 million per year.

"The STIP is our promise to the public we serve," said Transportation Planning Director Machel Watkins, whose Jefferson City office is responsible for putting together the transportation program. "So to cope with this funding challenge, the department has adopted the five-year direction to deliver the commitments to Missouri citizens."

MoDOT will focus on taking care of the existing system, keeping major highways in good condition, improving minor state roads, keeping pace with needed bridge repairs and maintenance, and providing outstanding customer service.

Another important element of the STIP's development is the ongoing, year-round public participation process.

"Local communities have had significant influence over how their transportation dollars are spent and which projects will be built first," said Watkins. "Working with local officials, community leaders, elected representatives and other Missouri citizens, the MoDOT districts determined their region's highest priority transportation needs and projects."

A complete list of transportation projects, as well as maps showing all highway and bridge projects, can be found at www.modot.org.

First Drunk Driving Victim Memorial Sign Installed on Interstate 270

Drunk Driving Memorial Signs Now Available Under David's Law

by Melissa Black

Drunk-driving victims can now be remembered with memorial signs along our highways. Twenty-six years after David's Poenicke's death due to an impaired driver, a sign was installed on Interstate 270 in Florissant in his honor. This drunk-driving victim memorial sign is the first to be installed under the new "David's Law," legislation named after Poenicke that allows families of drunk-driving victims to request memorial signs.

"Impaired driving continues to be a problem among motorists, many of

whom don't realize how little of a substance it actually takes to affect driving skills and put themselves and others at risk," says Leanna Depue, director of MoDOT's Highway Safety Division. "Hopefully these new signs will help to bring extra attention to this issue and get people to think twice before driving impaired."

Poenicke's sister, Gail Rehme, was a leading force in getting legislation passed in the hopes that memorializing drunk driving victims like her brother will also help save lives. Rep. Bill Deeken of Jefferson City sponsored the bill.

The blue memorial signs read "Drunk Driving Victim" and include the person's initials and the month and year they were killed. At the bottom it reads "Think About



District 6 Engineer Ed Hassinger spoke at the installation of Missouri's first drunk driving victim memorial sign, with many of David Poenicke's family attending.

It." The signs can be requested and paid for by the family of a drunk-driving victim.

Poenicke was 19 when he was killed on his way home from a Cardinals baseball game. He pulled his motorcycle over to the shoulder of I-270 when a passing car struck him and his motorcycle. The driver had a blood alcohol

level of 0.14 and was charged with manslaughter and vehicular injury.

Applications for the memorial signs are available on MoDOT's website at modot.org/services/HighwayNaming.htm.

In 2009, 280 people were killed, 1,140 seriously injured and 3,719 received minor injuries in crashes involving an impaired driver.

MoDOT Wins Two Regional America’s Transportation Awards

Highway users in Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas and Iowa are benefiting from less congestion, improved safety and greater productivity as a result of six projects that were named today as winners in the America’s Transportation Awards Mississippi Valley regional competition.

“This is really about showcasing the tremendous work being done across the

country and about letting our legislators know at the state and federal level, what we are doing in our states,” said John Horsley, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials in announcing the winners at the Mississippi Valley Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials annual meeting Des Moines, Iowa.

MoDOT received two awards: one for the Diverging Diamond Springfield Interchange Project, which took home a prize in the Innovative Management, Small Project category; and another for the I-64 St. Louis Project, which won in the Under Budget, Large Project category.

Winners in the two remaining regional competitions will join the winners from

the Northeast and Mississippi Valley in competing for the Grand Prize and People’s Choice Award, which will be presented at the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Biloxi, Miss., in October.

Learn more about all of the winning projects and the competition at www.americastransportationaward.org.

Employees Can Save with WeSave

To help employees stretch their household income, the Office of Administration has entered into an agreement with WeSave.com. State employees who choose to participate in this FREE program will have opportunities to save money (typically 5-20 percent) on goods and services they purchase from participating merchants.

Becoming a WeSave member is easy:

- Visit www.wesave.com and select Missouri from the drop-down menu.
- Under “Join WeSave,” select “New WeSave Member.”
- Enter your personal or home e-mail address, create a username and password.



- Complete the registration form.
- You will receive a verification e-mail – and then you are ready to start saving!

Employees who sign up for WeSave before Aug. 16 will automatically be entered to win a 42” flat screen television. For additional information about this exciting new program, visit the Division of Personnel’s WeSave webpage at <http://oa.mo.gov/pers/wesavemo.htm>.



MoDOT’s Values and Tangible Results have been newly revised to better reflect MoDOT’s five-year direction. The Community Relations division has updated and redesigned the Values and Tangible Results posters in cooperation with Organizational Results, and the bi-fold wallet cards have been updated as well. You can place custom orders and get additional details at <http://wwwi/intranet/cr/posterform.htm>. The web page also contains the files for these materials so you can distribute them electronically and print them yourselves, if desired.

August Service Anniversaries

40 years	
Edmond Leivian	D2
35 Years	
Charles S. Spegal	D3
25 Years	
Eben W. Estes	D1
Norman L. Sawyer	D1
Jon C. Brown	D3
Sally E. Crump	D4
Kennit M. Berry	D4
Sharon M. Taegel	D4
James R. Hayes	D5
Kenneth R. Steinbeck	D5
Phillip P. Wilson	D6
Donald R. Young	D6
Robert M. Shaw	D6
Paul R. Bryan	D8
Gary S. Goessmann	D8
James K. Clark	D9
Bruce C. Street	D10
Larry S. Nicholson	D10
20 Years	
David W. Lewellen	D3
Thomas C. Gregg	D4
Daniel S. Pierce	D4
Marvin P. Powell	D4
Kelly L. Anspach	D4
Melvin E. Schroeder	D4
Allan C. Haslag	D5
Willard E. Collins	D5
Douglas R. Garner	D9
James M. Slone	CO
Rodney P. Massman	CO
15 Years	
Douglas J. Crookshanks	D1
Eddy D. Oswalt	D2

Carla R. Farrington	D2
Rodney J. Colbert	D3
Kent L. Williams	D4
Lyron S. Arthur	D4
Ronnie E. Smith	D4
Diana L. Mayfield	D4
Richard S. Uptegrove	D4
John E. Hinkle	D5
Ralph A. Zuroweste	D5
Alvin T. Blackford	D5
David L. Myers	D7
Terry A. Miller	D8
Timothy J. Porter	CO
Kevin McHugh	CO
James E. Davis	CO
Robert S. Marshall	CO
10 Years	
Tommy D. Kenny	D1
William D. Gallagher	D1
Joseph G. Moore	D1
Jamie A. Wright	D1
Ronnie E. Burris	D2
Jason A. Smith	D2
Timothy L. St. Clair	D3
Scott W. McLaughlin	D3
Gerald L. Hanlin	D3
Michael A. Fulks	D4
Shari P. Severeid	D4
Melissa A. Roberts	D4
Janet R. Rath	D6
Christopher J. Hohowski	D6
Shelby L. Rowland	D6
Laura A. Campbell	D6
Phillip M. Jones	D6
Randy D. Myers	D7
Ronald D. Combs	D7
Bert E. Phipps	D7
Wilber L. Berry	D7

Clint R. Durrington	D8
Kyle G. Ethridge	D8
Andrew J. McNeill	D8
Jerod M. Street	D9
Douglas S. Inman	D9
Douglas G. Kemmett	D10
Derek F. Fichtel	D10
Ronald J. Varvera	D10
Clover S. Reffitt	CO
Bradley D. McCloud	CO
Gidget J. Mott	CO
Russell M. Weisman	CO
Cory M. Volkart	CO
Pamela L. Orr	CO
Lisa M. Lamons	CO
Rachelle K. Hynes	CO
5 Years	
Phyllis A. Filley	D1
William T. Elder	D2
Charles L. Ahnefeld	D2
Joseph H. Haggard	D3
John L. Moore	D3
Kenneth A. Birke	D3
Lindsay M. Harris	D4
Debra J. Walter	D4
Michael J. Devero	D4
Kristopher M. Eckhoff	D5
Michael L. Hall	D5
James F. Mengwasser	D5
Chad M. Pillow	D6
Douglas A. Borgmann	D6
Kimberly J. Watson	D7
Roy L. Harrison	D7
Eric E. Bowers	D8
Daniel E. Myers	D8
Stoney J. Dailey	D9
Brandi D. Gentry	D9
Dustin J. Hardy	D9

Oscar L. Smith	D9
Ardita Roark	CO
Ryan P. Rademan	CO

June Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Johnny Lutes	D10	27
James Johns	D10	34
Billy Momphard	D3	23
Stanley Powell	D4	25
Terry Duffen	D5	32
John Tellman	D5	25
Wilma Wondell	D6	24
Kenneth Ganey	D6	29
Henry Howdeshell	D9	9
Gerald Dunn	CO	14
Ronald Scott	CO	23
Steven Stacey	CO	26

In Memoriam

Retirees		
Troy A. Wishon	D4	May 31
Herman Lynxwiler	D10	June 2
Buel C. Needs	D1	June 5
Jerry W. Suttmoeller	D6	June 8
Howard K. Gritton	D3	June 10
Robert (Bobby) W. Johnson	D3	June 15
John W. Thomas	D5	June 16
Tim R. Black	D6	June 17
Garry E. Lincoln	D10	June 17
Donald E. Wofford	D9	June 17
Theodore “Ted” R. Cockayne	D1	June 18

CO

Central Office

Amtrak Missouri River Runner Goes Green-er

Aluminum cans recycled from Amtrak Missouri River Runner trains will be donated to the River City Habitat for Humanity in Jefferson City to help build a house for a deserving family.

“Amtrak is one of the most environmentally friendly modes of transportation and we are striving to make it even greener in Missouri,” said MoDOT Rail Administrator Rod Massman. “By implementing a recycling program, we will reduce waste and help protect the environment. At the same time, we will help a family realize the American dream of owning a home.”

Starting in July, aluminum cans collected from the twice-daily St. Louis-Kansas City service will be dropped off daily at the capital city Amtrak station. The River City Habitat for Humanity’s

Aluminum Can Recycling Committee will use the proceeds from the cans on a home currently under construction at 815 Montana in Jefferson City. The project is known as the “house that cans built” because it’s primarily funded by the group’s recycling committee and programs such as this one by Amtrak passengers.

Eco-savvy Amtrak riders can now recycle aluminum cans across the national network of Amtrak trains. Amtrak is committed to making recycling an integral part of train travel and strives to protect the environment and conserve its resources by reusing material, recycling waste and preventing pollution.

“Traveling by rail is approximately 20 percent more fuel efficient than airlines

and 28 percent more than automobiles on a per-passenger-mile basis, and thus generates a lesser amount of carbon dioxide than both air and car travel,” said Roy Deitchman, Amtrak vice president, Environmental Health and Safety. “Even as Amtrak has increased train miles and frequencies across the country, we continue to reduce our consumption of diesel fuel, thanks to improved practices and conservation measures.”

Amtrak operates the Missouri River Runner service under a contract with MoDOT and with the support of the Missouri Rail Passenger Coalition, a group representing the communities along the 283-mile route. Ridership on the route for the past eight months, Oct. 2009-May 2010, is up by 12 percent versus the previous year, totaling 103,836.



Cathy Morrison



The River City Habitat for Humanity’s Aluminum Can Recycling committee will use the proceeds from the cans on a home currently under construction in Jefferson City.

First Mondays Expand Learning Opportunities

The Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division is offering a new training program called First Mondays. This program includes mini-workshops on a variety of diversity related topics and is held the first Monday of each month for the rest of 2010.

The first training was held in July and covered basic diversity training. In August, the training will focus on managing a diverse workforce.

“We’re trying to offer more and more resources so that all employees have an opportunity to participate and learn more about diversity issues,” said Rudy Nickens, Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division Director.

If you would like to learn more about future topics or would like to attend, contact Mikael Zacarias at 573-526-5611 or Mikael.Zacarias@modot.mo.gov. Learning Management System credits are available.

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Central Office IS Helps Ozark Traffic Management Center Extend its Reach

Thanks to teamwork between Central Office Information Systems and the Springfield district, signal management for Lebanon has entered a new era.

For many years, any changes to Lebanon’s traffic signals on Route 5 had to be done manually. District traffic personnel would have to drive up to Lebanon, pop open the signal control boxes and make whatever improvements were needed by hand.

By working with Central Office IS, communication links were developed that will allow 11 different signals to be monitored and updated from the Ozarks Traffic Management Center.

“We provided the network connection to them by fiber and using our ITS fiber network,” said Ron Rudroff, lead

information systems technologist. “We installed switches that would allow them to monitor the signals and make any changes remotely.”

Joe Dotson, traffic supervisor for the Springfield district sees the change as a benefit to all Missouri drivers traveling in those parts.

“The change lets us communicate with any of our signals in Lebanon to test, troubleshoot and even make timing changes remotely,” Dotson said. “We’ll have faster response to trouble calls and keeping the time clocks updated.”

Dotson also sees the change helping Ozark Traffic grow throughout the area.

“It’s a milestone for us outside of Springfield,” he said. “That makes our system district wide instead of city wide.”

D1

Northwest

Last Month in the Northwest District

by M. Elaine Justus

The water has finally started to recede after all the rain that fell in the last month. What it has left behind, though, is going to keep us busy for a very long time: debris, washed out culverts, damaged road surfaces and serious edge ruts.



Allan Markt

Debris and edge ruts are typical all along Route 159 in Holt County as flood waters recede.

Regional Maintenance Supervisor Deanna McClurg was checking flooding on the Platte River near U.S. 116 in Buchanan County when she heard whimpering. A little searching turned up one very young, very hungry, very scared little puppy. She brought him into the Customer Service Center for safe keeping. After a nap, and shared sandwiches, he felt a lot better. Although a number of people offered to adopt him, Deanna decided to take him home. In case you're wondering, his name is "MO" for MoDOT.



Holly L. Murphy

Regional Maintenance Supervisor Deanna McClurg found this puppy while checking flooding on U.S. 116 in Buchanan County.

along with Andrea (Shelton) Hendricks, Ph.D., Loretta Summers, SPHR, and Adolfo Castillo. Opening remarks were provided by Chief Financial Officer Roberta L. Broeker and Northwest District Engineer Don Wichern. Closing remarks were made by Elizabeth Wright, Kansas City area district engineer, and Rudolph Nickens, director of MoDOT's Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division.



M. Elaine Justus

The MoDOT Leadership Conference on Diversity was held in Kansas City on June 15.

for more info

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Marty Liles

District Engineer Don Wichern got an opportunity to speak at the Joint TAC training meeting.

The annual Joint TAC training meeting was held in Savannah, Mo., on June 17. Don joined Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Jose Rodriguez and Safety Officer Kris Anderson as they shared information with the more than 50 attendees about how MoDOT works.

On June 30th and July 1st, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission came to St. Joseph. The St. Joseph Alliance, composed of the local Chamber of Commerce, Convention and

Visitors' Bureau, and Missouri Western State University, hosted a fact-filled tour of the beautiful old river town followed by a "standing room only" reception at the historic J.C. Wyatt House Bed and Breakfast. The reception was followed by dinner at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steak Restaurant located in another historic building downtown. Don Wichern was unable to attend, but Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy did a fine job of hosting the event.



Holly L. Murphy

Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy addressed the MHTC's July meeting.



Holly L. Murphy

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission came to St. Joseph on June 30 and July 1 for their monthly meeting.

The View From the Road

by M. Elaine Justus



Holly L. Murphy

We've heard of "Surf & Turf," but this goes further. Apparently someone up in Harrison County along Route W, south of Eagleville, got tired of their motor boat and decided to make a planter out of it. Our favorite part is the solar-powered navigational lights on either side.

D2

North Central

A Monumental Celebration

by Anthony Zuccarini / photos by Cathy Morrison

If a thank you could be measured in length, the recent U.S. 36 Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies extended gratitude the width of the state - literally.

The collaborative effort of District's 2 and 3 by holding ribbon-cutting ceremonies along U.S. 36 on July 10, from Macon to Hannibal to dedicate the highway, formulated into a monumental celebration to end the completion of the massive four-laning project and make U.S. 36 four lanes across the state.

To kickoff the celebration a 5K Run/Walk was held west of Lentner in the early morning. Participants were given the first opportunity to enjoy the new highway as they walked, jogged and ran along the 1.5-mile stretch of new lane. Soon after this event the first ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Macon.

The Macon ceremony drew large attendance as the crowd was greeted with entertainment by various local singing groups and reenactors whose historical characters once grew up along U.S. 36. Among the dignitaries on hand were U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, Rudolph Farber, chairman of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, and Ed Douglas, president of the U.S. 36 Corridor Association.

Bond, who was then-chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that funds our nation's transportation programs, extended his appreciation to the taxpayers who approved sales taxes for the construction, and how it has already helped.

"I have said it before and I'll say it again: good roads equal economic development because companies want to do business in places that are easy for their employers, clients, and visitors to reach," he said. "Not only will this project benefit everyone who will use this road, it has already benefitted the people who were employed on its construction. This road has a Made in Missouri label, and our workers can take pride in what they created."

According to Shively, who reiterated the highway's importance for new infrastructure, safety would be one more benefit.

"The biggest point that people want to look at is the benefit as an economic development tool," he said. "It will make transportation safer, and hopefully add jobs to the area. This is a boom to the entire eighth district, and could bring tourism and other benefits to the area."

Sen. Bill Stouffer, who was unable to be present at the event, was given a special opportunity to have his letter delivered by the Pony Express. A rider with horse swiftly carried the letter to the podium where it was read to the crowd.

As the ceremony concluded, city, county, and state officials and reenactors gathered on stage for the ribbon cutting. As each section of the ribbon fell away, the crowd erupted into applause.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol provided assistance in leading a caravan east to continue ribbon-cutting flag stops at Clarence, Shelbina, Lakenan, Monroe City, and Hannibal.

More information about these other flag stops can be found on District 3's Connections page.

Although it was a hot day, the event couldn't have been better. Many compliments were received, and many were directed at the happiness and gratitude for having this monumental task complete. Great job to everyone involved!



Above is a collage of photos from the U.S. 36 ribbon-cutting ceremony in Macon, including a photo from the 5K Run/Walk.

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D3

Northeast



“Thank you” Spans the State

If it was said once, it was said a million times. Actually, about 35 million. Taxpayers in Marion, Monroe, Macon and Shelby Counties passed a 1/2 cent sales tax in 2005 to pay for half of the final 52 miles that would make U.S. 36 a four-lane highway between Hannibal and St. Joseph, and “thank you” was the predominant message during the event celebrating this project.

On July 9 and 10, MoDOT and the communities in northeast Missouri dedicated U.S. 36 with an evening reception, ribbon cutting ceremony in Macon, and Flag Stops along the final 52 miles. Pictures and highlights from the ribbon cutting ceremony and the 5K run/walk are on the D2 Connections page. D3 is featuring the evening reception and Flag Stops on its page.



Tom Boland, former Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission chairman, displays the “Road Work Next 52 Miles” sign with MoDOT NE District Engineer Paula Gough at the Hannibal Flag Stop, which concluded the day-long events celebrating U.S. 36 as a four-lane highway.

(Right) Led by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the VFW Riders followed along with more than 50 cars that started in the 52-mile caravan from Macon to Hannibal.



(Below) An evening reception, sponsored by contractors and local businesses, offered those involved in the U.S. 36/I-72 Corridor support a “thank you.” Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Rudolph Farber addresses the crowd, and the U.S. 36/I-72 Corridor Transportation Corporation is recognized in this collage of photos.



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Flag Stops Have Their Day



Five communities held “flag stops” along the 52-mile stretch of U.S. 36 between Macon and Hannibal as an opportunity to share history of and offer perspective on the completion of U.S. 36. The VFW posted the colors at each flag stop, serving as a reminder that U.S. 36 is designated as VFW Memorial Highway. Each stop was unique and reflected positively on those communities.



(Top) After leaving Macon, the caravan stopped at the Route 151/U.S. 36 overpass in Clarence for a ribbon cutting. (Middle) Rep. Tom Shively shared the history of Lakenan, followed by a ribbon cutting. (Bottom left) The City of Shelbyna offered music, a proclamation, and recognition of MoDOT Northeast District Engineer Paula Gough for her leadership. Paula is a member of the Shelbyna community. (Bottom right) Monroe City hosted members of the caravan for lunch and welcomed them with this nice sign as they entered their community.

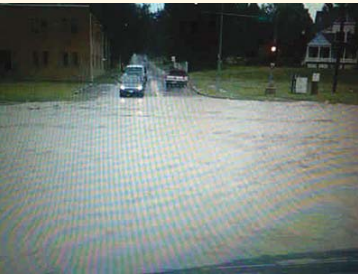
Around the District



The Northeast Regional Blueprint Committee sponsored a few ball teams this summer, including this group of hard-hitting young men from New London and Center. These teens are helping promote “Arrive Alive - Buckle Up” by wearing them as their uniforms.



Mike Hagerty from the sign shop spent a good part of his day cleaning paint ball residue and spray paint off of signs in the south. The “sign artists” who deface property need to find a new canvas!



You may think you’re looking at a small river or a big creek, but what you are really looking at is one of the busiest intersections along U.S. 61 in Hannibal after 2.35 inches of rain fell in 30 minutes. The intersection is on McMaster’s Avenue at U.S. 61 and West Ely/Pleasant Street, near Walgreen’s.

D4

Kansas City Area

New Interchange Complete

by Kerri Lewis

The \$45 million project to tie Pryor Road and Blue Parkway together that began in 2007 is done, on budget and on schedule. Recently, MoDOT, city and state officials gathered to celebrate the completion of the latest finished project for D4, the new “split-diamond” interchange at I-470/Route 50.

The ceremony opened the road and officials christened the new pavement with a short ride in a parade of cars from local automobile dealers. All work was complete and the new interchange open to traffic on June 28.

“Thanks to the many years of collaboration with the City of Lee’s Summit and RED Development, MoDOT is pleased to have been able to complete this project on time and within its budget,” said Beth Wright, MoDOT District Engineer. “It is partnerships like these that help ensure we can provide a safe and efficient transportation system.”

The connectors officially complete this \$45 million project, which was designed to improve traffic operations for the more than 130,000 vehicles that use the junction of I-470 and Routes US 50/MO350. Spanning U.S. 50 and MO 350, these ramps join the half-diamond interchanges at Pryor Road and Blue Parkway, creating the Split-Diamond Interchange. Motorists traveling on I-470 will now have access to each area of the completed interchange, allowing for more efficient travel and alleviating congestion through the area.

“The opening of the connector roads will increase roadway safety, allow quicker commutes, reduce traffic congestion, and improve access to restaurants, retail shops, businesses, and residential areas in this growing area of our community,” said Lee’s Summit Mayor Randy Rhoads.



A parade of cars chauffeured elected officials across the new connector roads to celebrate the official completion. Escorted by the Lee’s Summit Police Department, more than 15 officials joined in the event.



State, city and MoDOT officials cut the blue ribbon to signify project completion.

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What Comes Down Must Go Back Up

by Kerri Lewis

Route HH in Platte City recently received a makeover with the addition of a new bridge over I-29. Normally, what goes up must come down, but in this case what came down went right back up again. Crews demolished the old bridge with explosives on April 3 and completely replaced the structure in less than three months, reopening it for the many motorists using it daily.

MoDOT, Platte City, state, and county officials recently celebrated the new Route HH Bridge with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. More than 30 people celebrated the new bridge. The Mayor of Platte City, Frank Offutt, also presented MoDOT with a key to the city.

“We thank MoDOT and the contractor, Phillips Grading & Construction, Inc. for the speedy work to finish this bridge well under three months,” he said. “This bridge offers a major route into our historical downtown area and we are pleased to see the road back open with this wonderful new addition.

“Our partnership with MoDOT has been instrumental in enhancing our growing community and it is with great honor I present MoDOT with a key to our city.”

Sharon Taegel, assistant to the District Engineer graciously accepted the key on behalf of D4.



Rusty James with KC Scout Wins Award

by Gina Myles

Rusty James, Incident Management Coordinator for Kansas City Scout, received the Kansas People Saving People Award on March 31. The award was presented at the Transportation Safety Conference, held at the Overland Park Doubletree Hotel. The award recognizes James for his vision and persistence in the face of multiple challenges as he worked with diverse entities from police and fire departments to tow truck companies, to effectively improve traffic control procedures at crash and other incident sites in the Kansas City Scout system.

The 2010 Transportation Safety Conference was sponsored by University of Kansas Continuing Education and a federal grant through the Kansas Department of Transportation. The conference was designed to share and update information from all facets of the transportation safety community. It provided timely topics of interest to each of the targeted audiences. The program featured a keynote address, plenary speakers and breakout sessions on four themes: injury control, law enforcement, youth issues and roadway safety.



D5

Central

U.S. 65 to Become Four-Lane Highway in Benton County

State and local officials gathered on July 9 in Warsaw to celebrate the next phase of construction for U.S. Route 65 in Benton County. Approximately 50 people attended the ceremony held near Route 65, just south of the Route 7 interchange.

The event kicked off construction for a \$19.3 million project to widen the highway to four lanes from south of Route 52 to just north of the Osage River in Warsaw. When completed, the new divided highway will have two northbound lanes and two southbound lanes.

Route 65 is a major highway used by motorists traveling north and south through Benton County. The region is known for its beautiful lakes and natural recreation areas which draw visitors to the area.

“Motorists must travel on the existing two-lane highway through much of the county, with hills, curves, and large trucks,” said District Engineer Roger Schwartze during the ceremony. “This project will widen 13 miles of the high-

way to four lanes, improving traffic flow and increasing safety.”

The contractor for the work is Chester Bross Construction Company of Hannibal. Clearing and drainage work started the week of the ceremony on the north end of the project. The contractor will work from north to south.



Charlett Scott

At the ceremony, local officials praised the transportation and economic benefits the four-lane highway will bring to the area.

Last fall, construction started on a \$3.7 million project to widen Route 65 through the community of Lincoln. That project will include two northbound and two southbound lanes along with a center turn lane. It is being constructed by Lehman Construction of California, Mo. and will be completed later this year.

Mid-Mo Adopters Help Make “No MOre Trash! Bash” a Success

Mid-Missouri highways got a spring cleaning this year as a result of the annual No MOre Trash! Bash held in April. MoDOT recently released statistics for the Bash, showing over 128,000 bags of litter collected statewide and over 16,000 bags in Central Missouri.

Adopt-A-Highway volunteers were a big part of the Trash Bash’s success. Adopter groups in Central Missouri picked up more than 3,600 bags of litter, which is more than any other MoDOT district in the state. Their dedication and responsibility has a big impact not just for MoDOT, but for everyone who travels on Missouri roadways.

“The No MOre Trash! Bash is a great way to clean up Missouri while educat-

ing the public about the negative impact litter has on our environment,” said Carol Pleus, Central District Adopt-A-Highway coordinator. “We are grateful for the work these volunteers do, because for every state-maintained mile that’s mowed, landscaped, or kept litter-free, MoDOT can devote more resources to other critical areas.”

The No More Trash! Bash is a litter prevention campaign launched by the Missouri Depts. of Transportation and Conservation to help Missouri become a litter-free state. MoDOT crews, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Dept. of Conservation staff and Stream Teams focus their efforts during the Trash Bash to make roadsides cleaner and more attractive.

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FHWA Approves East Columbia Transportation Study

MoDOT recently announced that the final East Columbia Environmental Impact Statement has officially been completed. The Federal Highway Administration approved and signed a Record of Decision for the study on June 23.

The East Columbia EIS is a detailed study that evaluates how proposed roadway improvements in the area between Interstate 70 south to New Haven Road, and U.S. Highway 63 east to State Highway Z, could impact the natural and man-made environment. The EIS also identifies project goals and sets the stage to seek funding for design and construction of the recommended improvements.

“This has been a long, thorough process to document what transportation options are needed to improve a growing area of Boone County,” said District Planning Manager Mike Dusenberg. “The completed study means we are prepared to move forward and make improvements as funding becomes available.”

The three major goals of the study were to address traffic congestion and safety

concerns, to complete the major highway linkages between eastern Boone County and Columbia, and to improve access to eastern Columbia.

MoDOT worked closely with the City of Columbia and Boone County to

complete the study, which identifies a “preferred alternative” for meeting the purpose and need while avoiding or minimizing impacts to the social and natural environment of the area.

Based on public input, agency coordination, and internal analysis, the preferred alternative includes the extension of Route 740 from its current location at U.S. Route 63, using a new alignment, to the Lake of the Woods/St. Charles Road interchange at I-70. It also includes the improvement of Route WW (Broadway) from Route 63 to Olivet Road using the existing alignment. An extension of Ballenger Lane is included as a locally sponsored project.

The entire study can be reviewed at www.eastcolumbiaeis.com or the Central District website, www.modot.org/central.



Recent Retirements in D5

The Central District would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the district employees who have retired as of August 2010. These six employees have a combined total of 173 years of service. We thank them for their service and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Dale Comfort’s last day at MoDOT was Aug. 1. Dale retired after 34 years as a senior maintenance worker at the Hughesville maintenance building. He also worked at the La Monte building during his time with MoDOT.

Terry Duffen’s last day at MoDOT was June 1. Terry retired after 32 years as the maintenance supervisor at Hallsville. He has also worked at the Columbia maintenance building and held the positions of crew worker and intermediate crew worker.

John Tellman retired on June 1 after 25 years of service with MoDOT. John spent his entire tenure at the Jefferson City Project Office and retired as a senior construction inspector.



Ed Martin worked at MoDOT for 37 years before retiring on March 1 as a senior geotechnical specialist for the district.

Ed began his work at MoDOT as a senior materials technician and has also worked in St. Louis, Kansas City, and at Central Office.

Lawrence Harmon worked at MoDOT for 24 years before retiring August 1 as a senior equipment technician in Columbia. Lawrence has also held the positions of service attendant, shop mechanic, field mechanic, and equipment specialist.

Steve Widaman retired on Jan. 1, 2010 after 21 years of service with MoDOT. Steve started at MoDOT at the Rocheport maintenance building as a maintenance worker. After about six years, Steve transferred to the Harrisburg building, where he retired as maintenance supervisor.



D6

St. Louis Area

St. Louis Makes It Easier For Visitors To Find Their Way

The majority of incoming leisure visitors arrive in St. Louis by car. St. Louis now has a comprehensive wayfinding program to help them navigate to their destinations and find their way around the area.

Several community groups partnered to steer this new program. The partnership includes the St. Louis Convention &

in agreement that it is needed in St. Louis.

“MoDOT is proud to work with the CVC and the local communities to improve the highway signage for attractions,” said MoDOT District Engineer Ed Hassinger. “The new program will simplify the signs on the



(L to R): Todd George and Terri Porcaro, Pinnacle Casino; St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley; Lesley Hoffarth, Forest Park Forever; Kitty Ratcliffe, CVC; St. Louis City Mayor Francis Slay; and Ed Hassinger, District Engineer for MoDOT

Visitors Commission, MoDOT, Grand Center, Laclede’s Landing, Pinnacle Entertainment, City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and Forest Park Forever.

The partners came together with an understanding of a regional need of a comprehensive wayfinding signage program. The goal of the program is to help guide visitors and locals to area attractions and neighborhoods throughout St. Louis City and County. The new signs will replace current MODOT signage for attractions on roadways around the area, as well as downtown signs installed in the mid-90s.

The CVC met with more than 50 attractions and neighborhood associations for funding assistance. While MODOT will cover the costs associated with the highway signage, the participating institutions contributed the funds to cover the costs of producing the street level signs. These area attractions and neighborhood associations are excited about the wayfinding program and are

highways, eliminating the clutter of too many signs on the highway and improving the ease for motorists to find area attractions.

The new signs with eye-catching red accents have the stamp of approval by the Federal Highway Administration and MODOT. They reflect St. Louis’ French heritage and are a colorful and informative way to welcome visitors to St. Louis. They are being placed throughout St. Louis City and St. Louis County. MODOT began installing the highway signs in late June, with the balance of the 300 signs being installed by the end of 2010.

Old signage will be recycled and used to help create new wayfinding tools. The new attraction corridor signs are being created for Kingshighway Boulevard, Broadway, Grand Avenue and Lindbergh Boulevard to help visitors and locals navigate to some of the area’s most popular attractions and neighborhoods.

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Six Flags St. Louis Discount for Employees and Retirees

Six Flags St. Louis is providing discounted tickets to MoDOT employees during the 2010 season between now and Nov. 7, 2010. The discount is \$22.99 + tax for a one-day ticket (regular price is \$42.99 + tax). MoDOT employees throughout the state can purchase an unlimited number of tickets for any day(s) to only Six Flags St. Louis until Nov. 7.

Please follow the steps below to purchase the tickets:

- Log onto www.sixflags.com/stlouis
- In the upper right hand corner, enter
- “MODOT” in the promo code box.
- Proceed to purchase.

Please contact Kara Price, District 6 Community Relations, at 314-453-1810 or Kara.Price@modot.mo.gov if you have questions or need additional information.

Share Your Summer Photos!



Doug Borgmann, intermediate maintenance worker at St. Clair, and his wife, Cathy, stopped at the state line on their way back from Montana to hug the new Welcome to Missouri sign.

If you would like to share your favorite summer photo to be published in the next issue of Connections, please send them to:

Kara Price
D6 Community Relations
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Kara.Price@modot.mo.gov
1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, Mo 63017

Please include a brief description of the photo.

Safety Tips to Beat the Heat!

Hydration in hot weather

Don’t wait until you’re thirsty to drink. Drink more fluids regardless of your activity level. By the time your body tells you that you are thirsty, you’re already mildly dehydrated.

Water or Gatorade?

Adequate water ingested is not harmful, does not cause cramps, and will prevent a large percentage of cases of heat illness. Electrolyte requirements can be met with food salted to taste. Electrolyte- and sugar-enriched drinks, such as Gatorade, should be used when normal meals cannot be eaten or when sweating is excessive. If you opt for sports drinks, it is recommended to use 90 percent water and 10 percent sports drink because many sports drinks are

too sugary to work well for hydration. Overly sugary drinks can cause you to lose more body fluid.

Prepare for the heat

Proper hydration starts the day before. Avoid alcohol, caffeine, and excessive sugar, which all of which can cause body fluid loss. Drink a pint of liquid 10 to 15 minutes before beginning vigorous exercise.

Take Adequate Breaks

Remember to take periodic breaks for rest and hydration. Not only will this help prevent heat induced illnesses, it will allow you to perform better and prevent you from burning out too quickly. Injuries tend to increase on the second or third day of a heat wave. Take time to think out your actions.

D7

Southwest

Front Porch Offers Front-row Seat to Bridge Work

by Lori Marble

Like many homes in Neosho, Bobbie Tuggle's house is tucked back on a lot dotted with trees. Separating her front yard from Route 86 is one of the many creeks that runs throughout this close-knit town of just over 10,000 residents.

A slight breeze from the National Fish Hatchery ponds next door whispers through the trees, and the babbling of the creek create the feeling of being comfortably deposited on the front porch of a lake cabin; if not for the droning of the six-inch hydraulic water pumps that ran almost continually for approximately 30 days before the bridge was reopened in late June. The pumps moved water over and across the bridge while crews from Fortis Construction, Kansas City, and Branco Construction, Neosho, worked to complete the Safe & Sound bridge project.

From her front porch swing Tuggle had a front-row seat since day one of the rebuild effort. "I've certainly got a good view," she told visitors.

Having lived in the area "her whole life" Tuggle, now age 70, is used to being busy and surrounded by activity. She retired after 30 years as a nurse at the former Sale Hospital in town.

"It's just fun watching them do this. Not everybody gets to watch a bridge being



Bobbie Tuggle enjoyed the view from her porch when crews replaced the Route 86 bridge in June.

built," she said. "You know, I've even felt useful a time or two."

The crews rebuilding the bridge enjoyed working under Tuggle's watchful eye and obvious delight and interest in the work they're doing. Their daily routines came to include briefing her on the day's activity.

"I was aware of the limited access that Bobbie had to her home," said Mike Middleton, Southwest District construction engineer. "I knew that

due to the construction activity she would only have the low-water crossing, which would easily be overtopped if a heavy rainfall occurred. I was also aware of Bobbie's physical condition and knew that she needed to have access in whatever weather condition that might occur. During MoDOT's first meeting with the contractor, I asked for the contractor to take the initiative necessary to address Bobbie's access issues. My exact words were, 'Treat her as you would your own grandmother.'"

Middleton really didn't intend for the contractor to go to the extent they did.

"They even watered Bobbie's tomato plants for a few weeks," said Middleton. "Bobbie told me the other day, 'I don't think you had to say anything to that contractor about me, those are good people.'"

In addition to the watchful eye of Bobbie's tomato pots, the crews regularly paid attention to her guard dog tied to the tree in her front yard.

They took pains not to disturb "her fish": about half a dozen rainbow trout, escaped from the hatchery and now making a home in the creek bed in front of her home. In turn, Bobbie surprised the crews with donuts and acted as neighborhood liaison, keeping neighborhood families and businesses apprised of project milestones.

Tuggle eased back into the corner of her red-painted, weathered porch swing; a brightly pieced patchwork quilt slung over the backrest for comfort. Her toes pushed off the concrete porch as she began another day like she did the one before, rocking and watching.

"I've visited with everyone out here at one time or another," she said while gesturing to the crew hustling over and under the bridge. She pointed to one man then the next, listing off their name, the number of kids they have, their hometown and the last time they got a break from the job to visit their families.

"One of the most amazing things to me is how well they all work together," Tuggle said. "They have to be of sturdy nature, don't you think?"

What could have been a difficult--or at the very least annoying--situation for Tuggle turned into the opportunity of a lifetime. Her positive outlook and genuine admiration for the crews performing the work helped make a tough deadline and less than ideal working conditions seem less significant.

"It is nice to have the positive statements made about a construction project. It's our goal to delight our customers," said Middleton. "I believe Bobbie was very delighted."



The view of the bridge construction from Bobbie Tuggle's front porch.

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Completed Safe & Sound Bridges



As of July 1, the following Safe & Sound bridges in District 7 are complete:

- Newton 86 over Spring Branch
- Bates D over Stewart Creek
- Vernon M over Ladies Branch
- Dade O over Turnback Creek
- Newton W over Shoal Creek
- Dade Z over Limestone Creek
- Dade Z over Glass Hollow Branch
- St. Clair B over Campbell Branch
- Dade N over Muddy Creek
- Jasper O over Buck Branch
- Vernon WW over Townsend Slough
- St. Clair B over Monegaw Creek

D8

Springfield Area

Milestones: New Lanes Opened For Two North-South Corridors

by Bob Edwards

This summer's completion of two projects north of Springfield will mark significant milestones for two major north-south corridors in western Missouri.

The relocated northbound lanes of Route 13 between Springfield and Bo-

lanes challenged the district in recent years. More signs and pavement markings were placed to ease the problem. Now that concern is history and the former northbound side is a two-way road serving local drivers instead of carrying high-speed long-distance and regional traffic.

The project in Greene County, built by prime contractor Illinois Valley Paving, Springfield, IL, cost \$7.7 million. The project in Polk County cost \$11.1 million and was built by prime contractor PCi Roads of St. Michael, MN.

The northbound Route 13 relocation

was made possible by extra federal funds earmarked by U.S. Sen. Christopher Bond.

Route 65

After the four-laning of Route 65 was completed between Springfield and the Missouri-Arkansas line in 2007, attention shifted to the north of Springfield. The Route 65 four-laning to Fair Grove was completed in 2008 and then to Dallas County Route EE at Foose was opened in 2009. The final leg, to Buffalo, has just been wrapped up.

District Planning Engineer Ron Effland said the new "Michigan U-Turn" and off-set crossovers are working well and will keep the district from having to install traffic signals.

As for the overall impact of four-laning Route 65 north of Springfield, Effland said, "We're looking at increased safety and getting some economic development benefit."

Emery Sapp and Sons of Columbia was the prime contractor on the Route 65 widening between Springfield and Fair Grove for \$16.7 million and between Fair Grove and Foose for \$19.7 million. Koss Construction of Topeka, Kan., was the prime contractor on the Foose-to-Buffer section for \$12 million.



Bob Edwards

A ribbon-cutting at the Morrisville Fire Department marked the dedication of the new northbound lanes of Route 13 in Greene and Polk counties. Participants include, from right, U.S. Sen. Christopher Bond, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman Rudy Farber of Neosho, Greene County Associate Commissioner Harold Bengsch and representatives of the Ebenezer and Morrisville fire departments.

livar make for a straighter, safer drive along a 12.5-mile long section in northern Greene and southern Polk counties.

A new four-mile long four-lane stretch of Route 65 between Foose and Buffalo completes the four-laning of the highway between Springfield and Buffalo begun in 2007.

Route 13

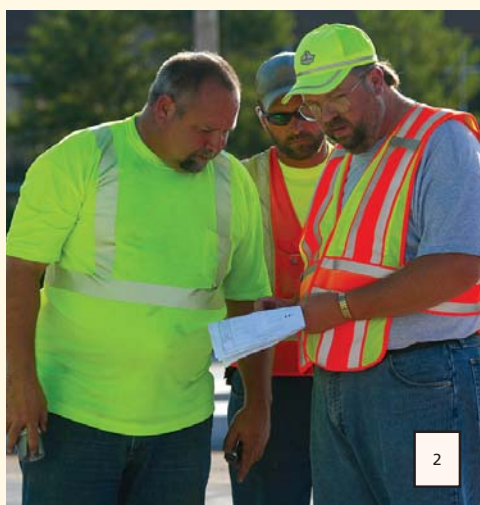
The new lanes of northbound Route 13 replace a section of the original hilly, curvy roadway built in the 1920s along five miles in northern Greene County and 7.5 miles in southern Polk County. The new lanes are built next to the straighter, more gradually-sloped southbound lanes built in the 1970s. A grass median separates the southbound lanes from the new northbound lanes.

A four-lane highway linking Springfield and Kansas City (widening Route 13 and Route 7, begun in the 1970s, was completed in the spring of 2008 when the final leg of Route 13 was opened at Collins. Work to relocate the old northbound lanes between Springfield and Bolivar began in 2008.

"Wow, it's about time," District Engineer Kirk Juranas said. Increased traffic and more wrong-way drivers on the old



1



2



3



4

Bob Edwards

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D8 at Work

1. District Garage Equipment Technician Charles Toler tapes the wiring underneath a replacement dump bed he has installed on a truck frame after making several electrical, hydraulic and mechanical modifications.

2. Laying out the striping for the new Diverging Diamond Interchange at National Avenue and Route 60 (James River Freeway) in Springfield are Striping Regional Maintenance Supervisor Paul Bryan, left, and Traffic Operations Engineer Leo Cologna, right. The DDI was opened to traffic July 12. It is the second DDI in Springfield and in the United States.

3. Buffalo Senior Construction Technician Ronnie Branstine checks the compaction on a shoulder of the new lanes of Route 65 south of Buffalo. The road was opened July 6.

4. District Maintenance Engineer Dave O'Connor helps with traffic control at Route 215 and old Route 13 at Brighton when new northbound lanes of Route 13 were opened July 1.

**"Talkin' Transportation"
Call-In Radio Show**

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

D9

South Central

Join the Show-Me 60 Caravan and Travel Route 60 on Aug. 13

Please join U.S. Sen. Christopher S. “Kit” Bond and U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson on Aug. 13 to celebrate the completion of the Route 60, Southern Missouri Corridor of Commerce, expansion through Missouri. The completion of the last project closed the “59-mile gap” and completed the four-lane corridor from Kentucky to Oklahoma.

The Show-Me 60 Caravan will travel from Willow Springs to Sikeston, with numerous “whistlestops” along the route to thank the communities along this critical corridor for their cooperation and patience. The opening ceremony will be held in Willow Springs at Booster Field, Business 60, at 9 a.m. on

Friday, Aug. 13. Willow Spring’s Mayor and business owner Jay Waggoner, will officiate the opening ceremony and will introduce Rep. Emerson. The official Route 60 ribbon will be cut and balloons will be released.

Additional ceremonies will follow in order by caravan.

- 10:30 a.m. - Mountain View event at the Mountain View Community Center, 125 East First Street
- 11:45 a.m.- Winona event at the Twin Pines Conservation Center, 1.3 miles east of Route 19 North
- 2:15 p.m.- Poplar Bluff event at the First Community Bank, 2911 N. Westwood Blvd.

- 3:45 p.m. – Dexter event at the Dexter sign near the AD exit
- 5 p.m. -The closing ceremony at Sikeston will be held at the Troop E Service Center, 105 Keystone Drive near Route 60.

If you can be a part of this celebration RSVP by visiting www.modot.mo.gov/southcentral/ or on our events tab on Facebook at www.facebook.com/modotsocentral. Hope to see you there!



Flashing Yellow Arrow Signal Coming to D9

West Plains residents will soon see a new type of signal at the intersection of Broadway St. and Washington Ave. - a flashing yellow arrow. This will be the first flashing yellow arrow signal installed in the South Central District.

The signal features a flashing yellow arrow display in place of a circular green indicator for yielding left turns. According to D9 Traffic Operations Engineer Jennifer Atkinson, the circular green light is often misunderstood as a left turn indicator. “Many drivers naturally think green means go, however, some forget to yield to oncoming traffic when they have a circular green indication. For this reason, we’re replacing the circular green indication with a flashing yellow arrow. We believe this

change in color will be more intuitive for drivers. A flashing yellow arrow will communicate to drivers that they must proceed with care and decide if traffic flow allows for a left turn,” said Atkinson.

Members of the D9 Traffic department have been speaking to civic organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and Senior Center to inform the public of the coming changes. “The response has been really good so far. Everyone seems eager for the new signals and are optimistic that this improvement will enhance safety,” said Atkinson.

The new signal was also the focus of several “Lunch and Learn” sessions for district employees throughout July. The flashing yellow arrow signal is scheduled to go live on Aug. 2.



Lunch and Learn participants listen to Intermediate Traffic Studies Specialist Michael Wake discuss flashing yellow arrows.

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Coalition Members Volunteer to Lend a Helping Hand

Members of the South Central Regional Coalition for Roadway Safety gathered for the Third Annual Volunteer Training July 14. According to Regional Coordinator Kelly Martin, this training is provided to members of the coalition to ensure that volunteers become comfortable running demonstrators and educational programs. “It’s critical that we have qualified volunteers available to help with the many outreach opportunities that are available. The availability of trained volunteers is what enables us to attend so many events and reach more individuals to improve safety on our roads,” said Martin.

Volunteers who attended the training learned how to set up and use the Rollover Demonstrator, the Seatbelt Convincer, and SAFE-T (Stopping Alcohol-related Fatalities: Education for Teens) equipment. Participants were able to practice on the demonstrators, ask questions, and test the Convincer and SAFE-T equipment themselves.

Participants were also given information on the many other volunteer opportunities available with the coalition, such as teaching the Buckle Buddy Program for K-2, becoming a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, or working with teens for the Battle of the Belt. “We have so many ways to help. We need volunteers to haul equipment, demonstrate equipment, teach educational programs, and hand out information at fairs and other events,” said Martin.

“This is the first year that a significant number of coalition volunteers from outside organizations participated in the training. “We were pleased to have coalition members from organizations outside of MoDOT more involved in the volunteer training this year. I’m excited to see the interest in what the coalition is doing and how each individual can help,” said Martin.



Meramec Regional Planning Commission Communications/Marketing/Environmental Coordinator Teri Smith rides with MRPC Assistant Director Bonnie Prigge as she navigates the SAFE-T (Stopping Alcohol-related Fatalities: Education for Teens) simulation course.

D10

Southeast

D10 Kicks Off AB Extension in Cape Girardeau County

The Southeast District and Cape Girardeau County Commission recently held a groundbreaking ceremony to kickoff the extension of Route AB in Cape Girardeau County.

The project includes Cape Girardeau County acquiring right-of-way for the extension and MoDOT taking the route into the state system. The extension of Route AB will include grading and paving. In addition, the intersection of Routes 25, 77 and AB will be reconstructed at Blomeyer to include a roundabout.

“The improvements will directly connect Route 25 and Interstate 55,” said Project Manager Andy Meyer. “This project will also improve safety at this Blomeyer intersection.”

Construction of the roundabout began in July. The improvements will reduce traffic to one lane with a 12-foot width restriction on Route 25 from one-half mile east of County Road 245 to the bridge over the Diversion Channel. Construction is expected to be completed in mid-October.

Speakers at the ceremony included:



U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond and District Engineer Mark Shelton address the crowd and discuss the benefits of the upcoming AB Extension project.

- U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson
- Mr. Tom Schulte, on behalf of U.S. Sen. Christopher Bond
- Missouri Rep. Billy Pat Wright, District 159
- Commissioner Paul Koeper, Cape Girardeau County
- Former Commissioner Larry Bock, Cape Girardeau County

- MoDOT Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton

For more information, please contact Project Manager Andy Meyer at (573) 472-5296, Resident Engineer Darius Dowdy at (573) 243-0899 or MoDOT’s Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).



Community leaders, legislators, contractors and members of the MoDOT project team gathered to show support for the Route AB project at the recent ceremony. (L-R) Mark Kluesner of the SEMO Port Authority, David McMullin of Fronabarger Concreters, Inc., Cape Girardeau County Presiding Commissioner Gerald Jones, Scott County Presiding Commissioner Jamie Burger, U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Former Cape Girardeau Commissioner Larry Bock, Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, State Rep. Billy Pat Wright, Cape Girardeau County Commissioner Paul Koeper and District Engineer Mark Shelton.

MoDOT Tests Thiopave Asphalt Product

During construction of the northbound lane of Interstate 55 in Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties, MoDOT will be using the new Shell Thiopave asphalt mix binder. Thiopave is an innovative product added to asphalt mix to improve road performance while reducing the amount of chemicals released into the environment during the construction process.

I-55 was selected as one of three pilot projects to use the technology in Missouri. During construction, crews will use Thiopave on the shoulders of the northbound lanes.

Thiopave, created by Shell, has shown greater resistance to structural damages than regular asphalt. Additionally, the

improved performance is produced at a lower cost than conventional asphalt.

Thiopave works to extend the life of asphalt pavement, increases load bearing capacity and aids in reducing rutting.

Shell Thiopave technology is more environmentally friendly in two ways. First, it allows asphalt to be mixed at a lower temperature than other mixes, and second, the sulfur contained in Thiopave is delivered as a pellet and added at the end of the asphalt mixing process, rather than being mixed and heated from the beginning of the process. This aids in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving energy.

Currently, Thiopave has been used in over 70 projects around the world, including U.S. 71 in Missouri.

Recent D10 Retirees



Johnny Lutes retired June 1, after 28 years with MoDOT. Lutes was a senior maintenance worker.



Joe Brown retired July 1, after 32 years with MoDOT. Brown was a senior maintenance worker.



James Johns retired June 1, after 34 years with MoDOT. Johns was an intermediate traffic technician.



David Kitchens retired August 1, after 32 years with MoDOT. Kitchens was a maintenance superintendent.



David Fleming retired July 1, after 24 years with MoDOT. Fleming was a facility operations supervisor.

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Connections

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The HEAT is on this Summer

by Amber Seaton

With summer heating up, an increasing number of Missourians are headed for some fun summer traveling. Unfortunately, the increase in travel brings a rise in traffic-related accidents and fatalities. State and local law enforcement officers are putting in extra time to make our roads safer in the height of travel season.

The three-month "HEAT Is On" campaign began in June and runs through Sept. 21. It kicked off with an Interstate 70 corridor project June 25-26. Other statewide efforts will be seen along Interstate 44 on Sept. 18-19 and Interstate 270 throughout the summer.

Law enforcement will be on the lookout for speeders, drivers who aren't wearing seat belts, and those who are impaired. Sweating from summer temperatures may not be the only HEAT-related experience these drivers will encounter.

For the past four years, Missouri has recorded the highest number of fatal and serious injury crashes between July and September. In the summer of 2009, 239 people were killed and 1,847 suffered disabling injuries.

While these numbers are disheartening, highway deaths overall are steadily decreasing. When 2010 comes to a close, Missouri hopes to see an even bigger decrease as the result of HEAT campaign initiatives.

"Our goal is to lower fatalities to 850 or fewer by 2012. And in order to do that we must prevent the spike in fatalities between July and September," said Leanna Depue, chair of the executive committee of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "It's all about saving lives."

To continue to keep traffic injuries and fatalities down, Missouri law enforcement will be turning up the HEAT



on repeat alcohol offenders, speeders, texters and those driving without their seat belts.

Along with the increased enforcement on Missouri's highways, the HEAT

campaign will also spread safe driving messages through radio advertisements and Internet videos. Find out more at www.savemolives.com.

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Barrel Bob's Wild Ride

by Michele Compton

Where in the world is Barrel Bob? That was the question District 4 was asking in July.

On July 8, the district launched an interactive social media campaign to promote work zone awareness. Using Barrel Bob and his cohort Barrel Betty, the community relations team picked two of the busiest construction zones and placed the safety advocates on site. The 10-foot-tall barrel structures encouraged motorists to slow down, merge early and be smart in work zones.

The team then launched a full social media campaign encouraging drivers to safely tweet or facebook the location of the Barrels for prizes.

What was intended as a fun, but informative safety campaign, however,



ended with an act of vandalism. Bob was taken from his location at U.S. 50 and Bynum Road without authorization one Sunday evening. Barrel Bob was placed in a very active construc-

tion zone to send a safety message, and unfortunately his message was not taken seriously.

Once again, the community relations team launched a full social media campaign, employing Facebook, Twitter and Flickr to encourage Bob's return. He was gone for less than a week.

He had lost his hard hat, but Barrel Bob was recovered in a field in Johnson County and is now safely back at his Kansas City home. Bob and

his co-worker Betty are currently in storage for minor repairs and refurbishing but will be ready for their next big engagement in a few weeks at the Missouri State Fair.

Barrel Bob is a creation of Robert Ohl, a Clarkson Construction employee. He took about ten hours to build, and comes in standard safety gear, including a reflective body, hard hat, and safety glasses. Betty, also a donation from Ohl and Clarkson Construction, joined Bob on the job this past February.

This wasn't the first brush with danger for this safety-conscious couple. Bob was part of a car-vs-barrel accident while serving the kcalCON project and Betty was the victim of several paint ball attacks.

Despite damage, the message they bring is always valid and important during this busy construction season. They will be on the job again soon!